

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-25 INR-10 RSC-01

INRE-00 SSO-00 /096 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC-AISAACS:BJD

9/12/73:EXT. 29380

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

S/S:RWRIGHT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181829

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CI

SUBJECT: CHILE DEVELOPMENTS: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1830

EDT, SEPTEMBER 12, 1973

FOR AMBASSADOR. FYI.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NEW JUNTA APPEARS TO BE ASSERTING FIRM CONTROL OVER COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH SOME SCATTERED RESISTANCE IS REPORTED, PARTICULARLY IN SOME FACTORY AREAS OF SANTIAGO. JUNTA ANNOUNCEMENT TERMED PRES. ALLENDE'S DEATH YESTERDAY A SUICIDE. FAMILY FUNERAL REPORTEDLY HELD AT NOON, SEPTEMBER 12. STRICT CURFEWS, CENSORSHIP AND VOWS TO CRUSH ALL CHALLENGES TO JUNTA AUTHORITY ARE ORDER OF DAY. JUNTA HAS POSED FEW EXPLICIT POLICY LINES SAVE FOR INTENDED BREAK WITH CUBA AND SUSPENSION OF CONGRESS. CASUALTIES BELIEVED NUMEROUS, BUT NO REPORTS THUS FAR OF HARM TO AMERICANS. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION IN SANTIAGO APPEARS TO BE STABILIZING. THE
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MILITARY JUNTA HAS STATED THAT THE COUNTRY IS CALM AND

UNDER ITS COMPLETE CONTROL, BUT IT HAS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED IT WAS STILL SUBDUING POCKETS OF RESISTANCE, PRESUMABLY IN SANTIAGO FACTORY DISTRICTS, AND SPORADIC GUNFIRE WAS HEARD AS OF MID-DAY. SITUATION OUTSIDE CAPITAL REPORTEDLY QUIET.

3. JUNTA TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT ALLENDE HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 11, DURING BOMBARDMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. COMMUNIQUE MAINTAINED THAT ALLENDE HAD CONVEYED OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER BUT THAT MILITARY PATROL SEEKING ENTER PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WAS DELAYED BY SNIPERS. PATROL, ACCORDING TO STATEMENT, DISCOVERED ALLENDE'S BODY UPON ENTERING. JUNTA STATES AUTOPSY ESTABLISHED ALLENDE'S DEATH WAS SUICIDE. PRIVATE FUNERAL HELD NOON, SEPTEMBER 12, REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS.

4. SANTIAGO HAS BEEN UNDER ALL DAY CURFEW. EARLY EVENING CURFEW SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT TOMORROW, AND MEDIA CENSORSHIP CONTINUES. JUNTA HAS ANNOUNCED INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF CONGRESS PENDING APPOINTMENT OF NEW "HIGH AUTHORITIES", BUT HAS BEEN VAGUE ON PRONOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE POLICIES, WHILE CALLING UPON ALL CHILEANS TO UNITE FOR WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION. JUNTA SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN QUOTED AS PLEDGING TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. CHILEAN AIR FORCE AND PATROL CRAFT REPORTEDLY ATTACKED CUBAN MERCHANT VESSEL LEAVING PORT OF VALPARAISO SEPT. 11 BUT WITHOUT SUCCEEDING IN TURNING IT BACK. MILITARY MAY ALSO HAVE RAIDED CUBAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO IN SEARCH OF UP REFUGEES.

5. THE TWO ANTI-MARXIST SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS PERMITTED TO CONTINUE PUBLISHING DID NOT APPEAR SEPTEMBER 12. THIS LEFT MILITARY RADIO NETWORK AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TELEVISION STATION AS ONLY PUBLIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

6. JUNTA HAS MADE NO MENTION OF CASUALTIES THUS FAR BUT NUMBER BELIEVED TO BE CONSIDERABLE GIVEN YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS AND VIGOR OF TODAY'S MOPPING UP OPERATIONS. THERE ARE STILL NO REPORTS OF HARM TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.
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7. JUNTA HAS PLEDGED "NO REPRISALS" BUT AT SAME TIME HAS EXPANDED LIST OF PROMINENT UP OR PRO-UP FIGURES ORDERED TO REPORT TO JUNTA AUTHORITIES. WHEREABOUTS OF MOST ARE UNCLEAR. JUNTA SAYS FORMER MINISTERS ALMEYDA, BRIONES, JOSE TOHA, AND INTERIOR SECRETARY VERGARA ARE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED THEMSELVES IN. ARMED FORCES RADIO ALSO ENUMERATED FOREIGNERS WHO WERE TO REPORT IN. NO

AMERICAN CITIZENS AMONG THEM.

8. MILITARY CONTROL OF MEDIA HAS APPARENTLY PREVENTED
EMERGENCE THUS FAR OF DISSIDENT VOICES. FORMER LABOR
MINISTER AND CUT PRESIDENT JORGE GODOY, A COMMUNIST, HAS
APPEALED OVER MILITARY RADIO FOR WORKERS TO REMAIN CALM RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE181829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AISAACS:BJD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS RUSH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730937/aaaabatg.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILE DEVELOPMENTS: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1830 EDT, SEPTEMBER 12, 1973
TAGS: PINS, MILI, CI
To: ARA POSTS EUR POSTS TOKYO USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005